



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department for the Aging

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November 18, 2008

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Note: The web addresses (links) in this document may change over time. The Department for the Aging does not attempt to refresh the links once the week has passed. However, this document is maintained on the web for a period of time as a reference. Some links may require registration.



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department for the Aging

MEMORANDUM

TO: Directors
Area Agencies on Aging

FROM: Bill Peterson

DATE: November 18, 2008

SUBJECT: **Change in the Auxiliary Grant Rate for
Assisted Living Facilities and Adult Foster Care**

Effective January 1, 2009, the Auxiliary Grants (AG) rate for Assisted Living Facility (ALF) and Adult Foster Care (AFC) residents will increase from \$1,075 to \$1,112 per month. In Planning District 8, the rate will increase from \$1,236 to \$1,279 per month (a 15 percent differential).

The personal needs allowance for the AG rate for both ALF and AFC residents will increase from \$77 to \$81 per month.



09-28

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department for the Aging

MEMORANDUM

TO: Executive Directors
Area Agencies on Aging

FROM: Deb Loving

DATE: November 18, 2008

SUBJECT: Modified Virginia Service Quick Form (UAI EZ FORM)

The **Virginia Service Quick Form** has been modified.

Please see the updated form attached and download the new form from the VDA web site from the following link:

[Virginia Service Quick Form](#)

The "Is there a caregiver?" query has been removed, because it was a remnant of requirements that changed with the inception of Title III-E.

If you have questions or need further guidance, please contact me at deb.lovling@vda.virginia.gov or 804-662-9323.

VIRGINIA SERVICE – QUICK FORM

Today's Date ____/____/____

Updated ____/____/____

Client Name & Demographic Information

* Name: _____
(Last) (First) (Middle Initial)

* Address: _____
(Street)

(City) (State) (Zip)

* Phone: () County or City of Residence: _____

Client's Customer ID: _____

Birthdate: ____/____/____
(Month) (Day) (Year)

Gender: ____Male ____Female

Race Status:

____ White or Caucasian Only	____ Black / African American Only	____ American Indian or Alaskan Native Only
____ Asian Only	____ Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander Only	____ Some Other Race Only
____ Two or More Races Combined	____ Race Unknown or Unreported	

Hispanic Origin:

____ Hispanic or Latino Origin **OR** ____ Not Hispanic or Latino Origin **OR** ____ Hispanic Ethnicity Unknown

Physical Environment

____ No one else lives in my home

____ Yes, I live with someone

Financial Resources

Number of members in immediate family: _____

Total monthly income of immediate family: \$ _____

In Federal Poverty? Yes ____ No ____

Sliding Fee Scale Level? A____ B____ C____ D____ E____ F____ G____
(If applicable)

For Office Use Only
Services Requested:

Services Provided:

Agency / Provider: _____ PSA No. _____

NOTE: At a minimum, this form must be updated annually in order for a client to continue service.

* Legal Assistance and Elder Abuse Services do not require these fields: Name, Address (Street, City, State, Zip) or Phone Number.



09-29

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department for the Aging

MEMORANDUM

TO: Executive Directors
Area Agencies on Aging

FROM: Ellen M. Nau, Human Services Program Coordinator

DATE: November 18, 2008

SUBJECT: Kinship Care

Virginia Commission on Youth

The Virginia Commission on Youth is accepting public comment on proposed study recommendations for the Study of Alternative Education Options and the Study of Truancy and School Dropout Prevention. All public comments received prior to November 25, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. will be presented to the Commission at the December 3 meeting which will be held at 9:30 a.m. in House Room C of the General Assembly Building.

Proposed recommendations may be viewed at the Commission's web at <http://coy.state.va.us>

Comments received prior to 5:00 p.m., November 25, 2008 will be provided to the Commission at the December 3rd meeting as part of its final deliberation.

Public comments may be submitted by:

E-mail

Amy Atkinson at aatkinson@vcoy.virginia.gov or Leah Hamaker at lhamaker@vcoy.virginia.gov.

Mail or Hand-Delivery

Virginia Commission on Youth
General Assembly Building, Suite 269
Capitol Square
Richmond, VA 23219

Fax

804-371-0574

If you have any questions, please contact the Commission on Youth at (804) 371-2481.

Foster Parent College

The [Foster Parent College](#) offers online training for foster, kinship, and adoptive parents.

Angie Grindon
University of Houston
Parent Education Project
210 Student Services Center, Bldg. #1
Houston, TX 77204-3025
Phone: (713) 743-5491
FAX (713) 743-5383
Website: www.las.uh.edu/pep

Reminder: Upcoming Webinar on Improving Children's Healthy Development Through Federal Policy Change

Please join us on Wednesday, November 19, at 3 p.m., Eastern Time, for a one-hour webinar, "Improving Children's Healthy Development Through Federal Policy Change." This event is being cosponsored by The Commonwealth Fund, Voices for America's Children, First Focus, and the National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP).

Charles Bruner, Ph.D., director of the Child and Family Policy Center and lead author of the new Commonwealth Fund issue brief, *Improving Child Health Care Through Federal Policy: An Emerging Opportunity*, will discuss the prospects for federal legislative child health proposals under President-elect Barack Obama and the new Congress. Alan Weil, J.D., executive director of NASHP, will offer the state perspective on federal children's health reform and Bruce Lesley, president of the advocacy organization First Focus, will discuss strategies for enacting federal well-child care reform. Commonwealth Fund vice president Ed Schor, M.D., head of the Child Health and Development Program, will moderate.

To register for this online event, please go to <https://commonwealthfund.webex.com/commonwealthfund/onstage/g.php?d=555779863&t=a>. There will be an approximately 20-minute question-and-answer session; you will be able to submit questions online.



09-30

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department for the Aging

MEMORANDUM

TO: Executive Directors
Area Agencies on Aging

FROM: Janet James, Esq., State Legal Services Developer and Public Guardian
Program Coordinator

DATE: November 18, 2008

SUBJECT: Free Long-Term Care Audio Conferences

FREE AUDIO CONFERENCE SERIES
NURSING HOMES: GETTING GOOD CARE
Presented By

*Project 2025: Enhanced Access to Legal Assistance for Older Americans in Virginia
In Partnership with Virginia Poverty Law Center, the Virginia Department for the Aging and
Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman*

- November 20th — **Care Issues 10 AM to 11 AM**
- November 20th — **Alternatives to Nursing Homes 11 AM to 12 Noon**
- December 3rd — **Resident's Rights & Surrogate Decision Making 10 AM to 11 AM**

If you have questions, please contact Cecily Slasor at:

Email: Cecily.Slasor@vda.virginia.gov
Phone: 804-662-9312

- - - Please See Flyer and Registration Form Attached - - -

FREE AUDIO CONFERENCE SERIES
NURSING HOMES: GETTING GOOD CARE

Presented By

*Project 2025: Enhanced Access to Legal Assistance for Older Americans in Virginia
In Partnership with Virginia Poverty Law Center, the Virginia Department for the Aging and
Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman*

Don't Miss This Valuable Opportunity to Get Critical Information NOW Before a Crisis Strikes!
ARE YOU TOO BUSY TO ATTEND AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM BUT NEED TO KNOW MORE
ABOUT LONG-TERM CARE? THEN REGISTER NOW FOR FREE AUDIO CONFERENCE SERIES!

Find out what you need to know about alternatives to nursing homes, important care issues, and your rights as a nursing home resident.

This FREE Audio Conference Series is designed for those who aren't able to attend a program outside the home or office. You can simply call in, toll free, from your home or office phone.

Who Should Participate?

Caregivers, Family Members, Older Adults

Although tailored to Care Givers, Family Members, and Older Adults, those who work with older adults are also welcome).

CALL-IN DATES

Thursday, November 20th — Care Issues 10:00 A.M.

Thursday, November 20th — Alternatives to Nursing Homes 11:00 A.M.

Wednesday, December 3rd — Resident's Rights & Surrogate Decision Making 10:00 A.M.

-----*All Sessions are only 1-hour long but jammed packed with critical information*-----

Speakers-

Joani Latimer, State Long-Term Care Ombudsman

Kathy Pryor, Esq., Elder Law Attorney for the Va. Poverty Law Center

=====

REGISTRATION FORM

Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip code:

Daytime Phone:

Home Phone:

Email Address:

Please sign me up for:

____ November 20 – 10 AM Session / Care Issues

____ November 20 – 11 AM Session / Alternatives to Nursing Homes

____ December 3 – 10 AM Session / Resident's Rights & Surrogate Decision Making

Please fax your completed form the Department for the Aging at:

Fax: 804-662-9354 to the attention of Cecily Slasor

Questions: Email: Cecily.Slasor@vda.virginia.gov, or Call: 804-662-9312

Thank you!



09-31

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department for the Aging

MEMORANDUM

TO: Directors, Area Agencies on Aging

FROM: Linda Nablo

DATE: November 18, 2008

SUBJECT: VDA Productivity Measure

At the October meeting of V4A I informed the group about a new Productivity Measure that VDA is required to report to the Department of Planning and Budget (DPB) each quarter. This new measure will become part of the overarching initiative led by the Council of Virginia's Future to quantify Virginia's performance. All performance and productivity measures are in the process of being uploaded to Virginia Performs which can be viewed at <http://vaperforms.virginia.gov/agencylevel/src/browse.cfm>.

In order to demonstrate and track the productivity of the aging services network, VDA will be reporting on the percentage of frail seniors served in home-based services by AAAs that are still receiving home-based services one year later. This measure is intended to show our success in helping seniors remain in their homes and communities and avoid or delay institutional care. We chose this measure for several reasons:

- ◆ This measurement speaks to our collective core mission of helping seniors remain independent;
- ◆ Diversion from nursing homes is increasingly important at the national and state level and measurement of our impact will serve the network well;
- ◆ Justification for funding is often tied to our claim that home-based services save Medicare and Medicaid dollars and such a measure may strengthen that claim;
- ◆ Refinement of any new measure will require work and commitment from VDA and AAAs so it should be devoted to a meaningful and useful measure;
- ◆ Data had to be available immediately as the first reporting was required by the end of October 2008;
- ◆ Following consultation with DPB, the Secretary of Technology (responsible for approving all agency measures) and Fairfax AAA (recently developed a similar measure).

The explanation of how this productivity measure is currently calculated is provided below. However, we are well aware that it can and should be improved as we move forward so we are reporting the most reliable and meaningful measure possible. Some of the most obvious deficits of this measure include:

- ◆ Currently, data can only be based on 21 of the AAAs as those recording service data in GetCare alone cannot be included until migration to the new Peerplace system;
- ◆ The AIM system does not allow a closure or termination code for individual services. Therefore, we are not able to determine why a specific service ended and this makes it impossible to state definitively how many clients stopped receiving services because they entered a nursing home as opposed to other reasons.
- ◆ Too many cases statewide do not have an assessment (much less an up-to-date assessment) on file even though they are receiving services and have therefore been eliminated from this analysis.

In order to strengthen this measure in the future, VDA will be working with the AAAs on correcting each of these and other weaknesses. Conversion to the Peerpalce system for the NWD sites should be completed by the spring, at which time all AAA data will be included in the productivity measure. The new Peerplace system does allow for closure codes for each service and AAA representatives on the Implementation Team have determined which codes will be included. It is our intention to adopt this list of closure codes for the AIM system as well and create new policy to guide the reporting of this new data element in AIM by July 1, 2009. Finally, we will also be strongly encouraging AAAs to ensure that all clients have a current assessment entered into the AIM system. This will no doubt take time and effort, but ultimately we will all be able to better quantify the impact of home-based services on those we serve.

On October 31, 2008, VDA reported the first Productivity Measure for the months of June, July and August 2008. This time period was selected because it takes approximately two months before all necessary data is received from the AAAs and processed. For this time period, the statewide percentage (based on 21 AAAs) of frail seniors who were receiving one or more home-based services a year ago during the same time period and are still receiving one or more home-based services currently was **56.97%**.

By mid-December, VDA will produce this measure by individual AAA and share the results with all of you. Over the coming months, we will work with you to improve the accuracy and consistency of the reported data that results in this productivity measure.

Current Productivity Measure is based on the following:

The percentage of frail older Virginians receiving in-home services that remain in their community one year later.

Definitions:

- Activities of Daily Living (ADL): Involves bathing, bladder, bowel, dressing, eating, toileting, transferring.
- Frail: Functionally impaired unable to perform at least two activities of daily living without human assistance.
- In-Home Services: Includes Adult Day Care, Checking, Chore, Home Delivered Meals, Home Maker, and Personal Care.
- Older Virginians (clients): Age 60 and over.

- Quarters: June-August, September-November, December-February, March-May.

Input Factors:

- 1) Number of frail clients that received in-home services during the last quarter and also received in-home services during the same quarter one year ago.
- 2) Number of frail clients that received in-home services the quarter one year ago, minus number of clients reported as deceased.

Calculation:

Factor 1 divided by Factor 2

I look forward to working with all of you in the coming months to improve our reporting of the impact of the wonderful work you do to help older Virginians remain safe, active and independent.



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department for the Aging

MEMORANDUM

TO: Executive Directors
Area Agencies on Aging

FROM: Ellen Nau, Human Services Program Coordinator

DATE: November 18, 2008

SUBJECT: National Family Caregiver Month

Proclamation from Governor Timothy M. Kaine

Please see the attached proclamation from Governor Kaine declaring November, 2008, National Family Caregiver Month in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

From the *Wall Street Journal*

NOVEMBER 16, 2008, 8:00 P.M. ET

Solving the Caregiving Puzzle

How individuals and communities across the country are changing the ways we will care for each other in later life

We are becoming a nation of caregivers.

Already, one in five adults -- 44 million Americans -- provides unpaid care to another adult, according to the National Alliance for Caregiving. And those ranks are sure to grow in coming years.

Yet rather than finding strength in these numbers, caregivers often labor in isolation, with little support from other relatives or their communities. They learn -- slowly, by trial

and error -- what many others have already learned before them about what works, and how to cope.

Caregiving, and the demands it places on families and household budgets, promises to be a defining issue in the U.S. in the next two decades. As baby boomers get older, and science and medicine extend our lives, more people will need more help to remain independent as they age.

The good news: By fits and starts, individuals and communities are recognizing the need for, and beginning to develop, strategies to help people stay in their homes and to ease the burdens on caregivers and care recipients. Consider:

[Charlotte Frank](#), an accomplished government executive in her early 70s in New York, was suddenly diagnosed with cancer -- but had no family nearby. She ended up assembling her own "care group" and has now developed a program to help re-create similar groups across the country.

[Naturally occurring retirement communities](#), or "NORCs," are developing ways to help older adults remain in their homes in later life. Pioneering groups in Boston and New York are setting the stage for similar communities nationwide.

[Martha Stewart](#), the TV host, author and magazine founder, learned firsthand about caregiving in her mother's final years -- and is now working to educate caregivers, care recipients and physicians about aging in the U.S.

We profile these individuals and programs. We hope their experiences and efforts prompt you to think about two critical questions: How do you wish to grow old? And how do you plan -- physically and financially -- to make the journey?

—*Kelly Greene*

National Legislation of Interest to Caregivers

Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008/The Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008. (HR 1424): When President Bush signed the \$700 billion *Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008*, the legislation also included mental health parity provisions which require group health plans of 51 or more employees to cover mental illness at the same level as physical ailments. It does not require the plans to offer such coverage, but, if they do, it must be equivalent. The law also allows for managed care companies to refuse to pay for care that they deem not medically necessary, but they must reveal their criteria for determining what care is a medical necessity and their reason for denying any mental health claim. The mental health parity legislation was co-sponsored by Sen. Pete Domenici (R-NM) and the late Sen. Paul Wellstone (D-MN) and received broad support from other lawmakers.

Empowered at Home Act (S. 3327, HR. 7212): On September 28, House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee Chairman Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ) and Rep. Diane DeGette (D-CO), introduced H.R. 7212, the House companion to Sen. John Kerry's (D-MA) *Empowered at Home Act*. Designed to improve states' ability to provide Medicaid home and community-based services (HCBS) to eligible beneficiaries, the legislation would, among other things, raise the income eligibility criteria and broaden the scope of covered services. The bill has been referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Senate Committee on Finance.

Independence at Home Act of 2008 (S. 3613, HR 7114): Introduced by Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Rep. Edward Markey (D-MA), the *Independence at Home Act of 2008* would amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide certain high cost Medicare beneficiaries suffering from multiple chronic conditions with access to services in low cost treatment settings (e.g., their residence) under comprehensive care plans developed by participating physicians or nurse practitioners. The proposed three-year demonstration project would involve 26 states and eligible beneficiaries would include those who have functional impairments, two or more chronic illnesses, and recent use of other health services. The legislation includes minimum performance standards for health outcomes and would measure the satisfaction level of beneficiaries, caregivers, and providers. The bill would also require providers to demonstrate savings of at least 5% annually compared to the cost of serving non-participating Medicare beneficiaries with chronic health problems.

Denise Brown – Caregiver.com

Caregiver.com has posted the organizations' caregiver's holiday survival guide for the holidays:

http://www.caregiving.com/support_detail.php?id=17

And reminds you that Caregiver.com is accepting nominations for its Caregiver of the Year award: <http://www.caregiving.com/index.php?page=yearwinner>

Modifications to the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)

The Department of Labor has released regulations that modify the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), including new rules defining how families of wounded service members will be able to take unpaid leave to care for them and new guidelines for employees who take FMLA.

Under a new regulation, employees are allowed to take up to 26 weeks off each year to care for family members seriously injured in the military. The change also allows relatives of active-duty National Guard Members and military reservists to take off up to 12 weeks of FMLA.

However, despite strong opposition by workers' groups and advocates for women and families, several of the new regulations make it harder for employees to take FMLA leave. The changes include a provision that workers must notify their employers before they miss work due to FMLA while employers get more time to let workers know whether or not their FMLA request has been approved. In addition, workers will now face more requirements regarding "fitness for duty" policies. For example, a worker with a chronic health condition is required to certify doctor visits at least twice a year for that condition.

For further information:

Labor Department finalizes new family leave rules by Jesse J. Holland of The Associated Press, November 13, 2008:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/11/13/AR2008111303534.html>

Rule Allows More Time Off For Families of Injured Troops by Michael A. Fletcher of The Washington Post,

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/11/14/AR2008111403506.html?sub=AR>



CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION

By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution of the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, there is hereby officially recognized:

VIRGINIA FAMILY CAREGIVERS MONTH

WHEREAS, during this season of thanksgiving, as we pause to reflect on the many blessings that have been bestowed on us as individuals and as a State, we are especially grateful for the love of our families and friends; and

WHEREAS, one of the most profound ways in which that love is expressed is through the generous support provided by family caregivers to loved ones who are chronically ill, elderly or disabled; and

WHEREAS, the need for family caregivers is growing – caregivers reflect family and community life at its best and are among Virginia's most important natural resources; and

WHEREAS, we are blessed to live in a time when medicine and technology have helped us live longer, and as a result, persons with disabilities are living longer and people over 85 are the fastest growing segment of our population; and

WHEREAS, family caregivers face many challenges and we should advocate for stronger public policy to address family care-giving issue; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that family caregivers provide more than \$306 billion worth of free healthcare services each year, forming a vital safety net for our country's formal healthcare system; and

WHEREAS, we honor the many contributions that family caregivers make to the quality of our national life, let us resolve to work through our community, religious, social, business and other organizations to offer programs and services that will provide caregivers the support and encouragement they need to carry out their vital responsibilities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Timothy M. Kaine, do hereby recognize November 2008 as **VIRGINIA FAMILY CAREGIVERS MONTH** in the **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of our citizens.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Kaine", written over a horizontal line.

Governor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katherine K. Hanley", written over a horizontal line.

Secretary of the Commonwealth